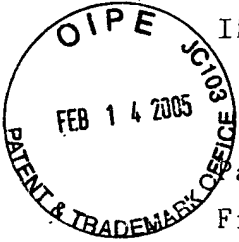


02-16-05

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/677,991

Art Unit 3652

Filing Date: 10/03/2003

Applicant: Raymond F. Howard

Examiner: Gregory W. Adams

To the Director of the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office

AMENDMENT LETTER RESPONDING TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION
(O.A. mailing date: December 16, 2004)

Original claims 1-5 have been rejected.

Claim 1 was rejected under both the First and Second
Paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Please amend claim 1 as indicated in clean copy presented
immediately hereinafter on page 2 of this letter.

Page 3 presents a marked-up version of original claim 1.

A "REMARKS" section on page 4 et seq. explains support
for the amendment and requests reconsideration.